NEW YORK HERALD

PUBLISHED BY THE SUN-HERALD CORPORATION, 280 BROADWAY; TELEPHONE, WORTH 10,000.

Directors and officers: Frank A. Munsey, President; Ervin Wardman, Vice-President; Wm. T. Dewart, Treasurer; R. H. Titherington, Secretary.

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By Mail, Postpaid.	One Year.	Six Months.	One Month.
DAILY & SUNDAY	$12.00	$6.00	$1.00
DAILY only	10.00	5.00	.85
SUNDAY only	4.00	2.25	.40
SUNDAY only, Canada	6.00	3.25	.55

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DAILY & SUNDAY	$26.00	$13.50	$2.40
DAILY only	18.00	9.00	1.50
SUNDAY only	9.75	5.12	.80

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THE NEW YORK HERALD was founded by James Gordon Bennett in 1835. It remained the sole property of its founder until his death, in 1872, when his son, also James Gordon Bennett, succeeded to the ownership of the paper, which remained in his hands until his death, in 1918. THE HERALD became the property of Frank A. Munsey, its present owner, in 1920.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1921.

James A. Wendell's Exoneration.

In behalf of Comptroller JAMES A. WENDELL, and the State of New York under which he holds his high office, it has been a gratification to record the dismissal in the Supreme Court of the charges in connection with the sale of bonds by his predecessor. It is a pleasure as well to commend the altogether admirable manner in which he expressed himself on the complete vindication as follows:

"My joy is fourfold. I am glad for the many personal friends who have so earnestly believed in me; gratified for the voters who, in spite of my indictment on the eve of election, expressed confidence in me; happy on my own account and delighted to think we live in a country and State where truth and justice ultimately prevail against every unjust attack."

Probably there were relatively very few persons in the great population of this State who did not agree with his confident friends that Mr. WENDELL should be held innocent of the accusation against him until there should be absolute proof to the contrary. Even those who regretted his candidacy under such conditions were virtually unanimous, as we recall it, that the circumstances were more a political embarrassment to his party than a reflection upon the candidate himself. By such partisan affiliation no less than partisan opposition which thought he might well withdraw from the campaign or, after the election, refrain from administering his great office until the unhappy matter was cleared up, there was generally frank acknowledgment that the justification of such a course would be campaign expediency rather than personal culpability.

This in itself was a very unusual tribute to a candidate under such charges, however unwarranted they might be. Nevertheless to have gone through such an experience in whatever circumstances was a trying ordeal. To come out of it triumphantly and be able to express himself about the whole affair as Comptroller WENDELL has done shows a fine, big spirit which adds new inches to his stature.

Hallucinations of Failure.

There is a touch of enlivening irony reported of VICTOR HUGO in a recent cable despatch from the Paris Bureau of THE NEW YORK HERALD. According to the executors of his voluminous literary remains, the great French novelist and poet made annotations for new creations of his genius "on the back of letters from editors and publishers who refused to buy his offerings."

This is poetic revenge, to have such messages of disfavor turned into treasures through the undisheartened pleasantry of the now famous pen. It is a gallant gesture of unsubdued resolution. Apparent failure is transformed into potential triumph and shown to be after all a mere hallucination. The man who thinks he has failed has done so just so far as some detractor or hostile critic has succeeded in persuading him to that conclusion. On the other hand, the man with something of the stamina of mind and spirit displayed by the author of "Les Misérables" turns the hallucination of failure into stimulus for future success.

We feel sure that DANTE wrote some of the most caustic and brilliant cantos of his "Inferno" on the back of the decree that exiled him from his beloved Florence and that LEONARDO DA VINCI sketched caricatures that not only made his enemies writhe but collectors of his works with the crayon contend for their possession on the margins of letters postponing decision concerning the artist's wages from paymasters of LUDOVICO, Duke of Milan, and the French King LOUIS XII. RODIN was three times rejected in entrance examinations for the Ecole des Beaux Arts, but if the notifications of his apparent failure preserved on each sheet but a single sketch from the sculptor's restless pencil they would be esteemed to-day as almost priceless tokens of his resilient reaction to discouragement.

Part of President LINCOLN'S Gettysburg address we know was jotted down on the back of an envelope on the journey to the battlefield. Perhaps the letter of which the cover was thus immortalized was from some blatant critic of the patient hero's conduct of the civil war.

All the documents that can be drawn up against a courageous spirit are nullified by the refusal to concede their validity. Alleged failure is nine times out of ten as much an empty bogey as any Hallowe'en pumpkin with only a candle behind its grimace. And sooner or later men will chortle with congratulatory glee over such debonair assurance as this of VICTOR HUGO'S, when he uses the very arrows that were aimed at his confidence to carry back a dauntless challenge to that pallid spectre Unappreciation.

After so convincing an example, then, let baffled contributors to publications who find their offerings returned to them with monotonous regularity notice that on the reverse side of every rejection slip there is presented to their pen or typewriter a tablet of virgin blankness, whereon they may adroitly pillory Old Man Failure and indite their most persuasive love letter to whichever of the reluctant Muses they woo.

Old St. Louis Dispute Ended.

St. Louis, the metropolis of Missouri and the Mississippi Valley, seems always to have something to worry about. In pre-Eighteenth Amendment days it was whether the Würzburger flowed better there than in Milwaukee, and later it was whether St. Louis had better boulevards than Kansas City or whether it sold more shoes than Boston. Now, in this year of Missouri's centennial and a period of deep historical research, the controversy is, Was Monsieur LACLEDE or Monsieur CHOUTEAU the founder of the town? The name of the former is preserved by a statue, of the latter by a large and prominent family.

The controversy is an ancient one. It has divided the old families for years into two camps; it has the thrills of an altered gravestone inscription and memories of old romances which suggest that for the peace of mind of the living the investigation might be carried too far, for as PHIL CHAPPELL, who knows his Missouri as well as any native born, bluntly wrote, "There are more than one wealthy and aristocratic family in St. Louis who have blood relations in the Indian Territory who wear the blanket."

Perhaps most Missouri school children were taught that AUGUSTE CHOUTEAU landed with a party of settlers on the site of the present town on February 14, 1764. So the matter stood until the learned Missouri Historical Society declared that while this was true CHOUTEAU was only 14 years of age at the time of this landing, and that the actual founder of the town was PIERRE LACLEDE, or, to give him his full name, PIERRE LACLEDE LIGUESTE.

Then the head of the clan Chouteau called upon the Historical Society to reconsider its action, and he offered to erect at his own expense a memorial to his ancestor, specifying, however, that the inscription must name him as the founder of St. Louis. He asked the society to study the tombstone over the grave of the first Chouteau. There it saw chiselled the statement that AUGUSTE was born in 1740. He would thus have been at the time of his landing 24, not 14, and accordingly entitled to be recognized as the founder of St. Louis.

The Pickwicks did not study with more diligence the mysterious stone which they uncovered than did the Historical Society study this ancient monument. It finally declared that the original date on the stone was 1750, and that this had been changed by a recutting to 1740.

Both parties agreed upon Father LAWRENCE J. KENNY, professor of history of St. Louis University, as arbiter. After a careful and painstaking research Father KENNY has just given his decision. He discovered the birth certificate of AUGUSTE CHOUTEAU'S mother. She was born in 1733, and if CHOUTEAU was born in 1740, as maintained by his descendants, his mother "would have been only 7 years old when he was born." Father KENNY is both diplomatic and human; while he acknowledged LACLEDE to be the founder of St. Louis, he gave CHOUTEAU the credit of being his "coworker." The big Mississippi town may now look for something else to worry about.

England's Medicine Hat.

When the season of blizzards is upon America readers look for despatches from Medicine Hat to tell them how far the northwest winds have driven the mercury down in the thermometer tube. Medicine Hat may be a negligible town in national affairs most of the year, but when we have warnings from the Weather Bureau and more intimate signs of biting weather conditions then this remote Canadian town comes into its own as the breeding place of "forty below" temperatures.

England apparently has grown jealous because of the fact that it has no such atmospheric indicator and she has determined to set up a Medicine Hat of her very own. This is to take the form of a weather observation station on the island of Jan Mayen, which lies 200 miles east of Greenland. Since this lonely island was discovered by HENRY HUDSON in 1607 it has been inhabited only once, for a year in 1882-1883, when Austria maintained a station there for scientific observations. So far as weather observations go it is recorded by these temporary settlers that a mean temperature of 27.8 degrees Fahrenheit was established. This would show that Medicine Hat may not have a rival in Jan Mayen after all as the real thing in the way of a blizzard breeder.

HUDSON called the island Hudson's Touches, not because he was able to borrow anything from one of its inhabitants but simply because he had called at that place with his ship. The place was subsequently called Trinity Island, Ile de Richelieu and Jan Mayen. This last name, which has survived all the others in permanency, was given it in 1611 by a Dutch discoverer whose name does not otherwise loom so large among us as do those of HUDSON and the Cardinal.

Don't Burn Yourself Up!

That it should have been found desirable and worth while to set apart seven days out of every 365 especially to urge careless Americans not to burn up their homes and their fellow human beings unnecessarily is a phenomenon of civilized life which pains optimists and brings tears to the eyes of altruists. But the record of destruction and death which has been written in the United States by those heedless in their playing with fire establishes the imperative need for the special official effort which is to be made this week to induce all men and women to use ordinary intelligence to protect themselves and the community in general from fire.

Arson is the least important cause of destructive fires; criminal incendiaries would find their opportunities greatly curtailed were their activities not obscured by the smoke screen rising from the conflagrations kindled by carelessness. The smoker who tosses a burning match into a waste paper basket or a glowing cigar on a sun dried awning, the camper who neglects to extinguish the embers of his campfire, the householder who lets inflammable matter accumulate in cellar or back yard, the automobilist and machinist who plays the fool with oils and gasolene, the garment worker who sneaks a puff of a cigarette in a lint filled workroom, the grain elevator worker who does not do all that he can do to keep dust down to the minimum; these are the firebugs to whom the nation's shocking losses are due.

In the United States the annual property loss from fire constitutes an economic factor of great importance; the deaths resulting from fires are a terrible price to pay for what is mere heedlessness. Plain business sense and ordinary humane feeling call for rectification of the practices which impose this burden on the community, and New York's Fire Prevention Week embodies the attempt to bring about the reform.

New Way Up Mount Everest.

The latest report from the Mount Everest expedition is that the ascent of the peak will be made from the northeast. The preliminary reconnaissance and preparations which the change in routes demanded have been carried out successfully and the report says that the climb over this flank of the mountain has already begun. Nothing perhaps could more clearly indicate the lack of knowledge which even explorers and scientists had of this region than the final resort to this route, the one which in the earlier discussions was believed to be impossible.

The way which at first appeared to offer most promise of success was from the southwest. This was perhaps due to the fact that this approach was most familiar to the natives of northern India and that shepherds and the nomads of the country had made further advance from this direction than from any other. But an investigation showed that the natives had scarcely more than reached the lower foothills, and that beyond a deep valley in this highland rose an enormous precipice capped by a great ice cliff which effectually cut off any hope of approach to the peak.

The climbers then began an investigation from the west and northwest. In the west they found two great mountain spurs, which descended abruptly to glaciers, while on the northwest and the north they found still more formidable obstacles in a mountain that rose an almost vertical cliff 10,000 feet above another great glacier. After these failures the reconnoitring party gradually worked around to the northeast, or to the Tibet side of the range, where they found a valley which they could cross and thus reach a high northern ridge of Mount Everest. The nearest previous approach to this point was by a Tibetan expedition some ten years ago, which was able to distinguish this same ridge from a position on the Lhassa road about 100 miles away.

Colonel HOWARD BURY, the leader of the expedition, says that after it was decided possible to reach this northern ridge a base camp was established at an altitude of 17,500 feet. Another camp was formed on the glacier at 20,000 feet and another at about 24,000 feet on the slope of Mount Everest. It is along the route thus prepared that the new attempt to reach the peak has been undertaken. Just how far the expedition has been successful is not yet known and may not be known for some time because, as Colonel BURY says, it takes from five weeks to three months for information from the upper camps to reach the outside world.

Since the time when the expedition was undertaken a new altitude record has been made in aviation by Lieutenant JOHN A. MACREADY reaching the height of 40,800 feet, which is about two miles higher than the top of Mount Everest. The airplane will undoubtedly be able to furnish science with more valuable information upon air currents and on conditions of the atmosphere in extreme high altitudes than can be furnished by the climbers of the earth's highest peak. The benefits which will result from the present Mount Everest expedition must thus necessarily be a better knowledge of the great mountain itself and of the hitherto unknown surrounding region.

The Play and the Book.

Two characteristics used to persuade the playwright that a novel could be adapted to use on the stage or inspire the manager with the desire to acquire the rights: the material was in itself dramatic or the popularity of the book was such as to interest thousands of readers. In the search for stage material it was usually one of these characteristics that carried a novel from the library to the theatre. There it was the continued interest in the book or its transformation into an effective drama that decided the success or failure of the experiment.

It was the vogue of the author of course that brought the great novels of the Victorian age to the stage. The works of DICKENS were seen in crude dramatic form on the stage so soon as they were complete in the form of novels. The thrilling quality of WILKIE COLLINS'S fiction naturally appealed to the playwright. Mrs. HENRY WOOD gave to the stage not only "East Lynne," which lived for several generations, but "Henry Dunbar," which enjoyed nearly as much popularity. ALEXANDRE DUMAS wrote "The Three Musketeers" and stirred the blood of thousands of readers long before its pictures were transferred to the stage. The same is true of "Monte Cristo." But these were made of the stuff that endures and they held their place in the theatre until it yielded them to the cinema.

It not infrequently happens that one character may insure the longevity of a play. The opportunity to act the suffering mother near the children she has been compelled to surrender made "East Lynne" beloved by every actress of the emotional school for years. Of course "Rip Van Winkle" would soon have disappeared from view but for the genius of JOSEPH JEFFERSON. As it was, he had to keep tinkering with the piece during its early days and dared not present it in London until DION BOUCICAULT had put the matter into more artistic form. This same BOUCICAULT never disdained the use of the novel. From "The Collegians" he wrought "The Colleen Bawn," which was one of his earliest triumphs.

PAUL M. POTTER'S "Trilby" was always regarded as the most successful of modern dramatizations, as it not only preserved the atmosphere of DU MAURIER'S romance of the Latin Quarter but told an absorbing story. It set the form for all subsequent plays made from popular books. Paste and scissors did not serve any longer to do the trick. It really has become a trick which seems already more or less standardized, so frequently is it the method employed by the skilled adapter nowadays.

It was the hypnotic element of DU MAURIER'S story that appealed to the trained dramatist who set out to put the young blanchisseuse de fin, the lowering Svengali and the three musketeers of the brush on the stage. That was the unique dramatic element in the play. Ever since that day adapters have sought a dramatic point of departure in every book and proceeded to develop a drama from that theme. Outward and visible features of the story may appear to impart what W. S. GILBERT called corroborative evidence to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative. Yet this theme may not be foremost in the book. For the suggestion of the novel dramatists rely on the title, the names of the characters and maybe the original scene. These remnants of the popular novel are of course cherished by the adapter. But the wise playwright selects what appears to him the available drama in the story and concentrates his efforts on that.

Boston changes. The stockings worn by the waitresses at a lawn party given in honor of the American Medical Association, and listed in the official record of expenses as "decorations," were crimson, not blue.

A New Jersey gentleman objects to playing poker against an opponent who holds six cards to a hand, which shows the protestant is hopelessly behind the times. The purpose of most poker players nowadays seems to be to make the game as unlike the original as they can.

Is it in delicate tribute to the ministers of religion that the State opens Fire Prevention Week on a Sunday?

The Department of Agriculture is trying to find out how far a house fly can fly. The answer is easy. As far as a bald head.

Under the Wind.

My soul has walked where poppies were,
Has drunk of dreams, has drunk of sleep;
Has grown too lazy and too dull
To feel, to laugh, to weep.

Now there has come a ruthless hand
To drag it from the pleasant plain;
Now naked it must walk the hills
In bitter wind and rain. . . .

In burning agony and tears—
Its poppy scented sleep is past—
But, oh, the wonder that it knows
To be awake at last!

ARSDALE W. CRESSON.

An Autumn Mood.

I do not know if strife there be to live,
With these, beyond the lease fair Summer yields;
No voice distinct the lingering, last flowers give,
Yet runs their sigh (or mine) through all these fields.

And all the standing woods (where, ere leaves fall,
They snatch a glory from the sunset sky)
Whence—from their breast, or mine—the uneasy call
That answer seeks where never was reply.

Why did these question not in Spring—I, too,
When many warning old leaves still took wing.
Of from the wood mould whispered what they *knew;*
For these, and I, foredoomed were ev'n in Spring?

Nay, not till leaves (and Man) be touched with sere
They ask what none can answer, and few hear.

EDITH M. THOMAS.

Birds Going South.

Transients Registered in West Tenth Street Ailanthus Trees.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: For a number of years the ailanthus trees in the yards back of me in West Tenth street have been way stations for many varieties of bird migrants. Spring and fall they afford me the pleasure of welcoming some old friends, of bidding godspeed to them on their long journeys southward.

These cooler days and nights have given warning to many birds that have been delaying their southward flight, and every morning I look expectant for little visitors and am rarely disappointed. The morning's record for October 5 tops them all for a single day, both in numbers and variety.

There were six catbirds, a brown thrasher, two white throated sparrows, one white breasted nuthatch, one yellow palm warbler—he of the bobbing tail—one myrtle warbler, four olive backed thrushes, two sapsuckers, one wood thrush. Last year a little screech owl spent the day resting, silently floating off with the coming of dusk; and one morning I had the great pleasure of seeing both the golden crowned and the ruby crowned kinglet together on the same tree.

I add a more or less complete list of other birds that have found the ailanthus a haven of rest: hermit thrush, Maryland yellow thrush, veery, red eyed oriole, Canadian warbler, Wilson's warbler, red start, parula warbler, prairie warbler, junco, black throated green warbler, phoebe, brown weeper, robins, wren, towhee, oven bird.

For several weeks I have watched hundreds of migrants flying high toward the sunset skies, too far away to determine species. And several times I have seen a villain hawk on their trail. Many will perish by the way, their journeys are full of peril, and the wonder is so many survive. How frail and helpless they seem, and yet what courage and strength they must have to live in their world, to escape the dangers of ours!

The birds that stop to rest and feed in the ailanthus trees show plainly enough their fear of the city, the consciousness of a strange and menacing world of men about them. Most of them stop for a day, some only for a few hours.

When they come in the spring I know that the spirit of youth is with us again, when I see them pass on their journey south I know that youth has had his day, old nests are deserted. And yet in the winter woods I shall see and hear the embodiment of perennial youth and cheer, the little black cap, the chickadee. No winter can be dreary where the chickadee calls, flies and performs his acrobatics.

J. B. C.

NEW YORK, October 8.

How Debtor Nations Pay.

There Is an Exchange of Credit as Well as of Commodities.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: The statement has been repeatedly made that exports from this country to any foreign country can only be paid for by imports from that foreign country. That Germany, for example, cannot buy raw materials unless we buy an equal amount of her finished products. To say that this argument is fallacious is putting it mildly. There probably never was a time when the exports from any country to another country exactly equalled the imports from that other country. Sometimes they do not even approximate one another.

For a number of years we bought, for example, much more from South America than we sold there and we paid for such commodities by our exports to Europe, where the exchange of credits was made. South America exchanging her credit against us for our credit against Europe, and paid her debt to Europe with our credit and at the same time cancelled our debt to her. Germany is already underselling us in South America. That means she has a credit there. That credit could be used to pay her debts to us for our raw material even though she sold less in this country than she bought here.

It is not true under the law of exchange or any other economic law that the exports of any country to another must equal or approximate the imports from that other country. Before the war, I am told, two-thirds of our imports were from countries that are not now our debtors although our exports were heavy then to those debtor nations. Our imports from South America and the Far East before the war exceeded our exports to those countries and we were making heavy exports to Europe. During all this time we satisfied the law of exchange, for as an eminent writer of economics has said:

> The balance of trade between any pair of countries is rarely such as to bring about an equalization of their exports and imports. It is in the grand total of a country's transactions that we find the equalization of imports and exports, or rather the equalization of all of a country's international debts and credits; and it is this broad equalization which serves to bring about a settlement without the flow of specie.

All this talk, therefore, about the necessity of our furnishing a market here for these debtor nations in order to enable us to sell our products to them I believe represents economic nonsense and the only purpose it can serve is to befuddle the unwary who are now being appealed to for the purpose of defeating the pending tariff bill.

J. F. ZOLLER.

NEW YORK, October 8.

What No One Knows.

From the Columbia Missourian.

Will some psychologist kindly explain why 11 o'clock at night is the best time to write on a typewriter, and 7 in the morning the best time to play a cornet?

One Way to Keep American Ships Busy

Discriminating Duties of the Jones Act Revive the Policy Which Built Up Our Old Merchant Marine.

The report that the United States Shipping Board is busily engaged in preparing a report to the President recommending that the so-called Jones act—the merchant marine act of 1920—be put into immediate effect reveals a peculiar situation respecting the status of our merchant marine. Section 34 of that act directs the President to serve notice on nations with which we have terminable trade treaties of our intention to free ourselves from the restraint they impose upon us in reestablishing the early successful American policy of discriminating import duties and tonnage dues so as to create a preference for our ships in foreign trade. The Jones act was approved by President Wilson on June 5, 1920, but he refused to give the notice directed on the ground that Congress exceeded its powers in attempting to direct his action in treaty matters.

In the Jones act two peculiar points deserve mention. As a member of the Senate Commerce Committee President Harding participated in the preparation of the measure. In the Senate the bill was passed almost unanimously, there being no partisan division. The Shipping Board already is on record by resolution in favor of an extra 10 per cent. discriminating customs duty on imports in foreign vessels. The Shipping Board plans, it has been said, to discuss the matter of its report on this subject with the President, the report being prepared at the President's request. The inference is justifiable that all of the parties to this conference are in a friendly attitude toward the provisions of the Jones act in general and Section 34 in particular. It would be singular indeed if the upshot did not find the President convinced that he should give the notices of modification of our trade treaties that President Wilson refused to give.

The modification of the treaties in the manner indicated in Section 34 would not put the discriminating duty policy into immediate effect in my judgment because existing laws, notably the act of May 24, 1828, would prevent. This act clothes the President with power to suspend the collection of discriminating duties when he becomes satisfied that other nations do not discriminate against goods in American ships entering their ports.

The suspension has become general under provision of that act. Up to and including the Underwood tariff act, from the tariff act of July 4, 1789, this policy of discriminating import duties has in one form or another been carried; but its enforcement since 1850 has been suspended, generally speaking, through our adoption of trade treaties and laws to that effect. If the Fordney tariff should be passed as it came to the Senate from the House it would not carry—in suspension—these discriminatory shipping laws.

The need for the restoration of this, or some other equally protective, practical and enduring shipping policy is that this country cannot build ships in normal times as cheaply as they are built abroad, nor can we run ships as cheaply as they are operated under foreign flags, and yet it is necessary for the national defence and for the finding, holding and developing of foreign markets for our surplus products that we should possess a merchant marine of our own measurably adequate to the carrying of our foreign commerce.

This country, as I see it, has got to adopt a strong, generously protective shipping policy for our ships to prosper and grow in foreign trade, and I am convinced that a merchant marine of our own, if for no other reason than the national defence, for use as auxiliaries to our army and navy in time of war, is as necessary as a navy. We just cannot afford to go without it.

The policy of discriminating duties was in force from the beginning of our Government under the existing Constitution until it was suspended in 1850. It has never been repealed. It was so successful when first adopted that the reduction in revenue through the growth of American shipping caused the application of the policy to be reversed, that is, by imposing an extra or higher duty on imports than the regular duty when brought to us in foreign vessels, instead of reducing the duty on imports in American vessels. Although generally suspended in 1850, it had been in full or partial effect for so long—1789 until 1850—that there was no great impairment in our shipping growth during the next decade, or until the civil war, and during that entire period of seventy-two years the average of our imports and exports carried in American ships was 80 per cent.

As a result of every possible retaliatory and countervailing measure foreign nations availed of they succeeded in carrying an average of but 20 per cent. of our imports and exports during seventy-two years. In the light of that result, in the light of ineffectiveness of retaliation when tried and in view of the kind of a marine we developed under the protection of our discriminating duty policy in ante-bellum days I am convinced that it is the policy for this country again to put into operation for the protection, maintenance and development or expansion of our shipping in foreign trade.

The discriminating duty policy differs from the so-called subsidy or bounty policy in that the former adds to the revenues of the Government if it fails to protect our ships, while subsidies and bounties take money directly out of the Treasury. The former is indirect and the latter is direct. The former protects our shipping against foreign competition through the tariff, just as every other American product is protected against foreign competition.

During all of the time—more than two full generations—the discriminating duty policy was in force we had a great, growing and profitable American merchant marine. Instead of a shipping problem we had a shipping policy that protected our ships on the seas. The reason our ships were driven off the seas was not because of the change from sail to steam, or from wood to iron, or because of the civil war, but because protection had been withdrawn. When the war of 1812 ended American ships flocked back upon the seas in ever increasing numbers because they were protected against foreign competition; but when the civil war ended, lacking protection, being compelled to meet free trade competition upon the seas, our ships found themselves unequal to it and they withdrew.

During the half century after the close of our civil war whenever American shipowners and shipbuilders appeared before Congress to explain why our merchant marine in foreign trade was steadily diminishing and what was necessary to revive and sustain it, they answered, Protection. The same is true now or will be in normal times. For it to succeed our merchant marine must be protected, and it is up to Congress to protect it generously, adequately, permanently, whole heartedly.

ALEXANDER R. SMITH,
Editor of the *Marine Journal*.

ROSEMARK, October 8.

The Mounted.

Between the silence and the stars
He takes his lonely way
O'er barren tundras where the wolves
And foxes scorn to stray.
The igloos of the Esquimaux,
The missions here and there,
The tepees and the trading posts
Are in his loyal care.

With horse or husky in the cold
Unflinchingly he goes;
Death like a shadow paces him
Across the northern snows,
Beside his puny campfire sits,
And in his blanket creeps
With silver daggers of the frost
To slay him while he sleeps.

His beat is bounded by the ice
That rims the Arctic Sea.
The wilderness acknowledges
His grim authority,
He tracks the evildoer down
Through famine, freeze and thaw,
For in the country God forgot
Behold! he is the law.

MINNA IRVING.

The First Labor Day.

Official Minutes Fix the Date in September, 1882.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: Following are the bald facts concerning the first Labor Day celebration taken from the minute book of the Central Labor Union:

May 14, 1882 [note the date].—Delegates asked to get opinions from their unions as to the advisability of having a picnic under the auspices of the central body.

May 21, 1882.—A number of delegates reported that their unions were favorable; whereupon a committee was appointed to secure a park for the picnic.

June 4, 1882.—Committee reported that it had secured Wendel's Elm Park for Monday, September 4. [Thus was set the date for the first public labor demonstration since 1873.]

June 18, 1882.—It was decided to include a parade as a feature of the Labor Day demonstration.

August 6, 1882.—The following were chosen as officers of the Labor Day parade: William McCabe, Typographical Union No. 6, grand marshal; Roger Burke, longshoreman, marshal first division; Joseph Lies, upholsterer, marshal second division; Thomas Curran, bottlermaker, marshal third division. The grand marshal was instructed to lay out the route of the parade and the places of formation. Also that the picnic committee was authorized to issue a proclamation declaring the first Monday of September of each year to be a "general labor holiday."

September 5, 1882.—The picnic committee and the grand marshal and his aids reported all ready for the Labor Day celebration on the morrow.

The above in brief is the chronology of the first Labor Day parade and picnic. In my opinion it was the beginning of the great awakening of labor throughout the United States and the world.

It may not perhaps be a part of this story, but I cannot refrain from mentioning a fact that did not come to me for a number of years after the Central Labor Union had become an established fact. It is this: I gradually, through uniting with men in Grand Army of the Republic posts, came to learn that nearly all of the men who began the building of that union had been Union soldiers in the civil war, and two of them were privileged to wear the Congressional Medal, of which I believe only twenty or so were voted by Congress during the whole of the four years war.

The ranks of these old fighters in war and peace are almost a shadow now. In a meeting of the Grand Army of the Republic relief committee last March but three others of the more than two hundred original members of the Central Labor Union reported—George Warner, machinist; George Everett, carpenter, and, last but not least, Patrick J. Doody, who so far as I know is the only living civil war veteran entitled to wear the Congressional Medal. Ask him how he got it and he invariably answers, "Oh, for some damn fool trick they say I pulled off at Gettysburg."

WM. MCCABE.

OSONE PARK, October 8.

Race of the Sunflowers.

A 17-Inch Disk Reported by a Grower at Long Branch.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: I must dispute the New York claim to the distinction of having raised the largest sunflower.

I got three sunflower seeds in some beet seed and planted them. One plant was so large that it broke down the stalk before it got ripe. The largest plant of the three is ripe and dried. It is four feet around the brim and seventeen inches across the top. I gathered one quart of seed from this one flower. There was only one flower on each stalk.

W. W. JEFFERY.

LONG BRANCH, N. J., October 8.

Sweeping Condemnation of Baseball.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: To my way of thinking of the games of the different nations, from the Eskimo down to the tropics: tennis, golf, hockey, bullfighting—of all these baseball is the least interesting and the most silly, and how people can line up for tickets all night is something only insanity can explain.

ENGLISHMAN.

NEW YORK, October 8.

Texas Discretion.

From the Galveston News.

To all those who are offering us bonds and stock for "October investment" we beg to say we have decided to buy a fall hat.

Aftermath.

Love gave me all I had of joy,
Love gave me all I had of pain,
Heaped happiness without alloy,
Then swiftly wounded me again.

My heart to beg release was fain,
So keen his ardor to annoy;
Yet, now I but remember plain,
Love gave me all I had of joy!

CHARLOTTE BECKER.

Taking Food Out of China.

Japan's Treatment of Other Races and Her Proposals to America.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: You printed on September 26 an Associated Press cable despatch with a Tokio date line to the effect that "Japan would open China to get food."

In view of the fact that those parts of China accessible to means of transportation are more densely populated than Japan it may well be asked how the Japanese expect to get food out of China. In addition to this the export of grains, particularly rice, is absolutely forbidden by Chinese law, and it was only as the result of military pressure that Japan induced China to make a special treaty permitting the export annually of 500,000 bags of rice from the Province of Fukien to Japan. It is ridiculous, therefore, for Japan to pretend that she hopes to get food from China except by robbing the Chinese population and leaving them to starve, which was the cause of the recent famine in the Yellow River valley.

This curious article quotes a contribution by Premier Hara to the *Diplomatic Review* in which Hara declared that Japan will force the discussion at Washington of the necessity of opening the world to all races. This article quotes Premier Hara as declaring "So long as one race looked down on another or raised unwarrantable barriers and gave discriminatory treatment it can hardly be said that the cause of war has ceased to exist." "No race," so Hara says, "should adopt methods calculated to cause the suicide of another race."

How can Japan propose to discuss such principles in the face of their treatment of the Eta race in Japan itself, of their barring from Japan not only Chinese laborers, farmers and artisans but even Koreans and Formosans, who are Japanese subjects, while their treatment of the Corean is practically driving the Corean race to suicide? In this same astonishing article the Premier declares that "Japan is faced by a gloomy future in which the whole efforts of the nation must be devoted to obtaining food so that no energy will be left for the advancement of civilization."

If the Japanese farmer raised as much on his land as the Chinese farmer they would have twice as much food in Japan as they have, and if the Japanese were not so busy keeping a great army for the enslavement of the Corean, the conquest of Shantung and Siberia, they would have released a million able bodied young men for productive purposes.

The most astonishing of all is Japan's gracious proposition to cease fortifications in the Pacific if the United States will dismantle its fortifications in Hawaii and refrain from fortifying the Philippines. And this in the face of the fact that she has endeavored to conceal from the rest of the world that she has in the last five years built practically impregnable fortresses at Tsinanfu, the capital of Shantung, 250 miles inland from the sea, and at Hankow, which is nearly 800 miles up the Yangtse River. Does Japan expect to deceive any one by her protestations and ridiculous proposals?

Since writing the above I have received a copy of the Pekin *Daily News* from Pekin dated September 1, showing how the Japanese are attempting to export 200,000 tons of wheat out of Shantung in violation of Chinese law. And you must take notice of the fact that this is the identical territory afflicted by the famine into which our Americans have been pouring grain for famine relief.

It would not be surprising if much of this identical wheat or other grain that the Japanese now want to export was some of the stuff bought with American money.

GUY M. WALKER.

NEW YORK, October 8.

Music in Cincinnati.

Grand Opera Is Summer Habit There and It Pays.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: I read with interest your editorial article on "A Step Forward in Opera."

St. Louis may have been successful in light opera, but in Cincinnati grand opera is a summer habit with our fine Symphony Orchestra and a well trained large chorus of local talent. Adequate scenery, costumes and lesser stars of the operatic firmament add to the success. Moreover, it pays.

EMERY H. BARTON.

NEW YORK, October 8.

Amber Superstitions.

Cure for Ague and Specific for Deafness and Dimness of Sight.

From the London Daily Mail.

Most precious stones, from the Hope diamond downward, have some superstition connected with them, and that particularly beautiful jewel, amber, is by no means behind hand in this respect.

The ancient Romans believed amber to contain most valuable medicinal qualities. Children wore it as an amulet, and it was considered to be entirely efficacious against insanity, either taken internally in the form of a powder or worn around the neck.

It was also supposed, when worn around the neck, to be a cure for ague and to act as a defence against chills; ground up with honey and rose-oil it was regarded as a specific for deafness, and ground with honey alone as a certain cure for dimness of sight.

In many parts of Europe, even in these more enlightened times, amber is still considered to bring good health to its wearer, and though some people say that it is an unlucky stone there are far more who think that it is exactly the reverse.

Most women yearn passionately nowadays for an amber necklace. One has every respect for this most laudable desire on the part of the wiser sex, and it is interesting to think that amber was the very first precious stone made use of for the purposes of personal adornment. Homer mentions "the gold necklace hung with bits of amber" which was offered by the Phœnician trader to the Queen of Syra (Odyssey, xv. 460), and it is to be seen to-day, beautifully carved, in some of the most ancient specimens of Etruscan jewelry.

The color of the genuine article is perhaps reproduced nowhere else in nature. Its beauty has been applauded through the ages.

Nero in one of his verses to Poppæa's hair described it as of an amber shade, evidently intending to pay a very high compliment to the beautiful Empress, and hair of this color straightway became all the fashion among the high-born ladies of Poppæa's court, who, if it did not grow naturally upon their own heads, donned imported wigs stolen from the female savages of Great Britain and Germany.

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